

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Emily O'Neill, a detailee with the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of S.J. Res. 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 94, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 94) supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, the key to America's continued success lies in improving our Nation's educational system. Career and technical education, CTE, programs are a critical component to every student's education, creating diverse pathways into further education and careers. Today, these programs serve 94 percent of all high school students and 12 million postsecondary students. In both rural and urban communities, CTE plays a vital role in building student engagement, continuing our Nation's economic competitiveness, and building the skills of our workforce to meet and adapt to the needs of the 21st century.

Further, approximately 30 percent of jobs by 2018 will require some college or a 2-year associates degree, a need that can be met by improved access to CTE programs. By increasing these opportunities to obtain postsecondary skills training and meaningful credentials, CTE equitably distributes economic opportunity to all students who are willing to work for it. According to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Career, Technical and Adult Education, the average high school graduation rate for students concentrating in CTE programs is 93 percent, compared with the national average of 80 percent.

This is why today, with my Senate CTE Caucus cochairs Senator PORTMAN, Senator BALDWIN, and Senator ISAKSON and other colleagues in the Senate, I am submitting a bipartisan resolution to designate February as Career and Technical Education, CTE, Month. CTE Month provides a chance for students and educators alike to learn more about the educational opportunities available in their communities, and to become

more engaged in their studies today so they can plan for their future.

Our Nation's economic competitiveness relies on the skill of the American workforce and its ability to meet and adapt to the 21st century economy. By formally recognizing CTE Month through this resolution, it is our hope that we can build support in Washington and across the country for strengthening access to and expanding CTE programs.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 94) was agreed to. The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 48, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Lt. Gen. Kenneth E. Tovo

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN96 AIR FORCE nomination of Mark E. Heatherly, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN97 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning KARIS K. GRAHAM, and ending MARVIN WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN98 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning JESUS A. FLORES, and ending ROBERT C. GOLDTRAP, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN99 AIR FORCE nominations (17) beginning ERICA R. AUSTIN, and ending RICHARD G. STEPHENSON, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN100 AIR FORCE nominations (16) beginning GERALD IRVELT BAZILE, and ending FREDERICK L. YOST, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN101 AIR FORCE nomination of Stephen L. Nelson, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN102 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning MARY J. ABERNETHY, and ending KAREN B. STEINER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN103 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning MICHAEL D. AYRES, and ending MICHELLE L. WAGNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN104 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning LAURA J. MCWHIRTER, and ending GREGG E. WENTWORTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN105 AIR FORCE nomination of Nicholas J. Zimmerman, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN106 AIR FORCE nomination of Eric M. Chumbley, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN107 AIR FORCE nomination of Scott L. Wilson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN133 AIR FORCE nomination of Kirsten E. Delambo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN134 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning Salvatore Pelligra, and ending Rebecca A. Bird, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN135 AIR FORCE nomination of Dell P. Dunn, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN136 AIR FORCE nomination of Latrise P. Searson-Norris, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN171 AIR FORCE nomination of Jeffrey B. Krutoy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 4, 2015.

IN THE ARMY

PN108 ARMY nomination of John P. Hartke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2015.

PN137 ARMY nomination of Fred J. Burpo, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN138 ARMY nomination of Paul A. Brisson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN139 ARMY nomination of Mikelle J. Adamczyk, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN140 ARMY nomination of Robert G. Hale, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN141 ARMY nomination of John M. Gillis, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.

PN142 ARMY nomination of Andre M. Takacs, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 29, 2015.